Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended)   An e-mail handling method, comprising the step of:

    storing an e-mail in a compartment of a compartmented operating system of the type having mandatory access controls to each of a plurality of predetermined resources of the computing platform hosting the operating system enforced by a kernel of the operating system to ensure that resources from one compartment of the operating system cannot interfere with resources from another compartment of the operating system.

2. (original)   The method of claim 1, comprising storing an e-mail in a compartment with other e-mails.

3. (original)   The method of claim 1, wherein the e-mail is stored in an individual compartment.

4. (original)   The method of claim 1, comprising assessing the e-mail according to a security policy.

5. (original)   The method of claim 1, comprising determining a security status for the e-mail.

6. (original)   The method of claim 5, comprising applying a security tag to the e-mail denoting the security status.

7. (original)   The method of claim 1, comprising determining a security status for the e-mail, and storing the e-mail either in an individual compartment or in a compartment for containing plural e-mails, according to the determined security status.

8. (currently amended)   An e-mail handling apparatus, comprising:

    a computing platform hosting a compartmented operating system having mandatory access controls to each of a plurality of predetermined resources of the computing platform hosting the operating system enforced by a kernel of the operating system to ensure that resources from one compartment of the operating system cannot interfere with resources from another compartment of the operating system; and

    an e-mail agent for storing an e-mail in a compartment of the compartmented operating system.

9. (original)   The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the e-mail agent stores the e-mail in a compartment with other e-mails.

10. (original) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the e-mail
agent stores the e-mail in an individual compartment.

11. (original) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the e-mail
agent applies a security tag denoting a security status of the
e-mail.

12. (original) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the e-mail
agent determines a security status of the e-mail and stores the
e-mail either in a compartment with other e-mails or in an
individual compartment according to the determined security
status.

13. (currently amended) An e-mail handling method comprising
the steps of:

(a) navigating to an e-mail stored in a compartment of a
compartmented operating system of the type having mandatory
access controls to each of a plurality of predetermined
resources of the computing platform hosting the operating system
enforced by a kernel of the operating system to ensure that
resources from one compartment of the operating system cannot
interfere with resources from another compartment of the
operating system; and

(b) opening the e-mail within the compartment.

14. (original) The method of claim 13, wherein the step (a) comprises navigating to the stored e-mail using a first browser.

15. (original) The method of claim 14, wherein the first browser is provided outside the compartment where the e-mail is stored.

16. (original) The method of claim 15, wherein the first browser is able only to navigate to e-mails across compartments.

17. (original) The method of claim 13, wherein the step (b) comprises providing a second browser within the compartment where the e-mail is stored.

18. (original) The method of claim 17, wherein the second browser is given permission to read an e-mail within the compartment.

19. (original) The method of claim 13, comprising the step (c) of applying a security status to the stored e-mail.

20. (original) The method of claim 19, comprising the step (d) of moving the e-mail to a new compartment consistent with the

applied security status.

21. (currently amended) An e-mail handling apparatus,
comprising:

a computing platform hosting a compartmented operating
system of the type having mandatory access controls to each of a
plurality of predetermined resources of the computing platform
enforced by a kernel of the operating system to ensure that
resources from one compartment of the operating system cannot
interfere with resources from another compartment of the
operating system;

a compartment of the compartmented operating system for
storing an e-mail;

a first browser provided outside the compartment for
navigating to the e-mail; and

a second browser provided within the compartment for
accessing the e-mail.

22. (original) The e-mail handling apparatus of claim 21,
wherein the second browser is spawned by the first browser in
response to navigating to the stored e-mail.

23. (original) The e-mail handling apparatus of claim 21,
wherein the first browser is only able to navigate to e-mails
across compartments.

24. (original) The e-mail handling apparatus of claim 21, wherein the second browser is only able to access the e-mail within the compartment.

25. (original) The e-mail handling apparatus of claim 24, wherein the second browser is denied access outside the compartment.

26. (original) The e-mail handling apparatus of claim 21, wherein the e-mail is one of many stored in the same compartment.

27. (original) The e-mail handling apparatus of claim 21, wherein the e-mail is one of many each stored in an individual compartment.